

**Maryland Healthcare Quality and Cost Council
Evidence-Based Medicine Workgroup
Future Initiative Solicitation
March 22, 2011**

The Evidence-Based Medicine Workgroup would like to broadly solicit ideas for future projects.

Background

Current projects endorsed by the Quality and Cost Council include: 1) Hospital Hand Hygiene Program with standardized compliance observation methodology and data collection, 2) Blood Wastage Reduction Program also with standardized data collection, 3) Statewide Telemedicine Program Development, and 4) Hospital Regulated Medical Waste Reduction. In addition, the Hand Hygiene Project is embarking on a second phase, linking hand hygiene compliance to healthcare-associated infections over time.

Criteria

Proposed projects should focus on improvement in healthcare quality, and should have hearty evidence-base that the practice is effective and safe. Generally projects will be applicable to the inpatient hospital setting, have a substantial impact in terms of quality improvement, possibly offer cost-savings in the short or long-term, and have some ease of implementation. Ease of implementation should be quantified in terms of cost of implementation, intensity of the human resources required, and time.

Next Steps

Workgroup members and staff will solicit a call for future initiatives from various organizations and individuals, including professional groups, trade associations, advocacy groups and health insurers. The Workgroup will present recommendations for future initiatives at the June 10 Council meeting.

All recommendations will include the following elements:

- Description of Project
- Evidence
- Impact
- Cost-savings
- Ease of implementation
 - Financial resources required
 - Human resources required
 - Approximate time to implement

Submit by April 18, 2011 to mmussman@dnhm.state.md.us For questions call Mary Mussman, MD, MPH at 410-767-5468.